



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development
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JUNE 27TH APPLICATION DEADLINE NEARS FOR ENERGY GRANTS

Beatrice, Neb., June 8, 2005 – Small businesses located in communities with populations 50,000 or less, as well as farmers and ranchers are encouraged to make application for the \$22.8 million in grant funds available nationwide for needed Renewable Energy or Energy Efficiency projects.

Submit applications to the USDA Rural Development Beatrice, Neb. Field Office postmarked no later than June 27, 2005. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) announcing the grant availability was published in the March 28, 2005 Federal Register.

Monies are available for Renewable Energy Systems such as wind, solar, biomass, biogas, and geothermal projects. Funding is also available for Energy Efficiency Improvement projects such as improvements to HVAC systems, insulation, refrigeration, lighting, pumping systems, air systems, motor systems, irrigation efficiency improvements, etc. Businesses interested in energy efficiency improvements to their business should consider this program for potential funding assistance. Farmers and ranchers may be assisted with irrigation system energy improvements, methane digesters for livestock waste, grain handling systems, wind turbines, solar systems, etc.

Grants are available for commercially available or pre-commercially available technologies for up to 25 percent of eligible project costs. Renewable Energy System requests can be considered for a grant minimum of \$2,500 and maximum of \$500,000. Energy Efficiency Improvement requests can be for a grant minimum of \$2,500 and \$250,000 maximum.

Contact USDA Rural Development representatives: Jan Knobel, (402) 223-3125 ext. 4; Dan Laska, (402) 564-0506 ext. 4; Karissa Hagedorn, (308) 237-3118 ext. 4; Tim Brooks, (308) 632-2195 ext. 4; Cliff Kumm or Deb Yocum (402) 223-3125 ext. 4; (402) 437-5093 (TDY). Visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne.

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